

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 03350 041221Z

46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00

HEW-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01

USIA-06 EB-07 IO-13 ORM-02 COME-00 INT-05 AGR-05 PC-01

/074 W

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R 041004Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5863

INFO AMEMBASY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 3350

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR SENV NP

SUBJ: FLOODING IN RAUTAHAT

1. A LOCAL NEWS REPORT AUGUST 4 STATES THAT MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS, LAW AND JUSTICE JOG MEHAR SHRESTHA WILL MEET WITH INDIAN OFFICIALS ON AUGUST 5 AT GAUR BAZAAR, HEADQUARTERS OF RAUTAHAT DISTRICT ON THE INDIAN BORDER SOUTH OF KATHMANDU, TO INVESTIGATE THE RESULTS OF SEVERE FLOODING OF THE AREA CAUSED BY INDIAN CONSTRUCTION OF A RIVER CONTROL EMBANKMENT JUST ACROSS THE BORDER. THE 6 KILOMETER LONG EMBANKMENT FOLLOWS THE BAKIYA RIVER UP TO ITS JUNCTION WITH THE BAGMATI NEAR. IN ADDITION TO SUBMERGING GAUR AND 5 SURROUNDING VILLAGES IN 3 TO 5 FEET OF WATER, THE BLOCKAGE IS REPORTED TO HAVE FOLLODED SOME 2,500 HECTARES OF LAND.

2. COMMENT: IT CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED THAT THE FLOODING WAS WHOLLY DUE TO THE INDIAN EMBANKMENT. SUCH FLOODING IS NOT UNCOMMON IN THE TERA IN THE WAKEOF HEAVY RAINS, OWING TO THE TOPOLOGY OF THE AREA. NEVERTHELESS THIS INCIDENT IS ONE MORE SMALL ILLUSTRATION OF THE URGENT NEED FOR INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT IN THE HIMALAYAN AND SUB-  
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 03350 041221Z

HIMALAYAN REGION, AND OF THE POTENTIAL FOR POLITICAL FRICTION

INHERENT IN THE SITUATION. ANOTHER ILLUSTRATION OCCURRED A FEW WEEKS AGO WHEN NEPALI VILLAGERS LIVING ALONG THE MECHI RIVER, WHICH FORMS THE EASTERN BORDER WITH INDIA, APPEALED TO GON FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A COUNTER-EMBANKMENT FOR PROTECTION AGAINST THE EMBANKMENT BEING BUILT ON THE INDIAN SIDE OF THE MECHI. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE INDIANS ARE DETERMINED TO TAKE UNILATERAL ACTION IF NECESSARY IN CONTROL OF THE HIMALAYAN RUN-OFF, BUT SUCH ACTION OBVIOUSLY CAN ONLY BE STOP-GAP IN THE LONG RUN, AND THE SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL POLITICAL IRRITATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

MAYTAG

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FLOODS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 AUG 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ElyME  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976KATHMA03350  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760300-0576  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** ElyME  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 JUN 2004  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FLOODING IN RAUTAHAT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SENV, NP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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